

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14751

LIMDIS

PASS USIA KEOGH FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: HIGH POWER HIGH FREQUENCY TRANSMITTERS - VOA TINANG

REF: USIA 26243

1. BELIEVE ADDITION FOUR HIGH POWER HIGH FREQUENCY TRANSMITTERS AT TINANG CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER TERMS EXISTING AGREEMENT, PROVIDED PRESENT THREE 50-KW TEMPORARY TRANSMITTERS ARE REMOVED PER REFTTEL. I WOULD WISH NOTIFY PRESIDENT MARCOS INFORMALLY AT SUCH TIME AS REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL APPEARS LIKELY TO BREAK INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN. WHEN CONSTRUCTION ACTUALLY UNDER WAY AND EQUIPMENT ON SITE, WE WOULD ALSO WISH TO TRANSMIT A NOTE TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHING THE INCREASED VALUE OF THE FACILITY UNDER ARTICLE VIII PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE 1963 AGREEMENT.

2. BOTH IN YOUR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESSMAN HAYS AND IN 1976 HEARINGS, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD AVOID IF POSSIBLE DESCRIBING TINANG EXPANSION AS SUBSTITUTION FOR LOSS OF OKINAWA, SINCE THIS UNLIKELY SIT WELL WITH GOP. BASED ON MY TALKS WITH LANGENBECK IT APPEARS THAT EXPANSION CAN BE JUSTIFIED ON BASIS 1972 USIA STUDY REPORT
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FOR IMPROVING VOA ASIAN COVERAGE AND SECTION 5 OF PROTOCOL

TO 1963 AGREEMENT. FACT OKINAWA IS PRIMARILY MEDIUM-WAVE AND TINANG IS SHORT WAVE WILL LEND CREDENCE THIS APPROACH.

3. I AM NOT SANGUINE ABOUT LATER ADDITION TWO FURTHER TRANSMITTERS WITHOUT A GUID PRO QUO TO GOP WHICH MIGHT MAKE THIS PHASE INORDINATELY DEAR OR UNACCEPTABLE TO U.S. ONE SUCH POSSIBILITY THAT COMES IMMEDIATELY TO MIND WOULD BE A GOP DEMAND TO USE FACILITIES TO BROADCAST TO U.S. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO CONSTRUCTING CONTINGENT SPACE FOR THEM OR TO CONSTRUCTION OF FULL ANTENNA ARRAY IF YOU WISH TO TAKE THESE ACTIONS IN FIRST TRANCHE.

4. WHILE I CANNOT DIVINE LONG-TERM FUTURE RP-US RELATIONS WITH CERTAINTY, I BELIEVE TINANG FACILITY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO US ON A REASONABLE BASIS AT LEAST FOR THE NORMAL LIFE OF THE EQUIPMENT. AS FOR IMMEDIATE SECURITY OUTLOOK, PROSPECT FOR STABILITY APPEARS TO ME FAR BETTER THAN AT TIME OF NEGOTIATION ORIGINAL RADIO BROADCASTING AGREEMENT. AS YOU KNOW, HOWEVER, 1963 AGREEMENT ALLOWS FOR TERMINATION BY EITHER PARTY ON 18 MONTHS NOTICE (PLUS THREE-MONTH NEGOTIATION PERIOD), AND THIS WOULD ALSO APPLY TO NEW EQUIPMENT.

5. ONE POSSIBLE PROBLEM THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IS ADDITIONAL POWER DRAIN BY NEW EQUIPMENT ON ALREADY HEAVILY BURDENED NPC SYSTEM. THIS CONSIDERATION MAY BE RAISED BY FILIPINOS AT TIME OF NOTIFICATION OR SUBSEQUENTLY DURING PERIODIC POWER SHORTAGES. IN ANY EVENT, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER ACCEPTABLE ANSWER, PERHAPS IN TERMS WILLINGNESS OPERATE AT REDUCED LEVELS, SUPPLY OWN POWER FOR MAJOR NEEDS DURING CRITICAL LOAD SITUATIONS, OR SOME OTHER VIABLE ALTERNATIVE. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS.

6. FINALLY, LET ME REEMPHASIZE WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE COMPELLING NECESSITY TO INFORM PRESIDENT OUR INTENTIONS PRIOR TO NEWS BREAKING FROM SOME OTHER SOURCE. LATTER EVENTUALITY COULD PREJUDICE HIM AGAINST EXPANSION
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(ESPECIALLY SINCE BROADCASTS FROM NEW TRANSMITTERS WILL BE DIRECTED AT USSR AND PRC AND HE NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO FORMAL RECOGNITION BOTH REGIMES).
SULLIVAN

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